

# Goals of the project

- Goals of the Project „Development of a Pilot Ecological Network through Nature Frame areas in South Lithuania“
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Lot of nice wetlands in corridors with  
for Europe diverse biodiversity.



# Process in a Restored ponds



# 160 different pond project sites: A new pond near a wetland



# The importance of species in the corridor

- KEY TARGET: *Emy orbicularis* . *Hyla arborea*.
- SECONDARY: *Bombina bombina*, *Tristurus cristatus*, *Pelobates fuscus*, *Rana arvalis*, *Rana lessonae*, *Bufo viridis*, *Bufo calamita*, *Lacerta agilis*.
- FUNCTION: Corridor for aquatic insects  
*Graphoderus billenatus*, *Dystiscus lattassimus*,  
*Leuchorinia pectoralis/albifrons/caudalis*,  
*Sympecma paedisca*.

# Terrestrial habitat: Emys nest site



# Protected nest of *Emys Orbicularis*



# European Experience involved

- LIFE EMYS ORBICULARIS 2004-2008: Northern range with Germany, Poland, Lithuania. Experts from 3 countries provided experience in Aquatic restoration for juveniles, summer and hibernation, terrestrial (NEST) restoration.
- HYLEA ARBOREA: Denmark 1983-2014: More than 1000 ponds restored. Schleswig Holstein 2004-2014: More than 300 ponds restored.
- Breeding programmes in Both countries: DK,D



# European Experience

- LIFE BOMBINA 1999-2003, Denmark LIFE Bombina 2004-2009: Germany, Sweden, Latvia, Denmark: Aquatic habitat restoration.
- LIFE CRISTATUS 2004-2008, Estonia, Finland, Denmark, Aquatic habitat restoration.
- LIFE LAGOONS 2004-2012. SH-D,S,E,DK and LITHUANIA. *B.calamita/viridis*. Aquatic habitat restoration.
- LIFE PELOBATES and LEUCHORINIA 2010-2015, Estonia, Denmark, Aquatic habitats .

# In Lithuania the project builds on

- Inventories and older data of *Emys orbicularis* and *Hyla arborea* from before 2000.
- GEF project for *Emys orbicularis* protection in Herpetology Reserves 2000-03
- LIFE project for *Emys orbicularis*, *Bombina bombina* and *Triturus cristatus* inside 5 Natura 2000.
- 2009-2013: LIFE ecological corridors.

# Emys orbicularis

- Before 2000: Setting up Herpetological reserves
- 2000-2003: Active protection with water table raise, pond digging and nest protection.
- 2004-2008: 70 pond digging and restoration nest protection and cattle farms inside Natura 2000
- 2009-2013: IN CORRIDORS: >150 pond digging and restoration, water table raise, nest protection. Cattle farms. Artificial rearing of eggs from threathend nest.
- RESULTS: New ponds are colonized from 2007-2013. But turtles reproduce slow.

# Hyla arborea

- Before 2000: Inventories
- 2000-2008: 2 new ponds made in core area
- 2009-2013: BUILDING A CORRIDOR: >30 ponds designed for HYLAR ARBOREA from Belarus border in south to TURTLE corridors in PETROSKAI FOREST IN NORTH. Total >150 new and restored ponds in the network is available for Hyla arborea.
- RESULTS: Hyla population is stabilized and colonized northwards to Petroskai forest. Fast reproduction.

# Goals amphibians in corridors to benefit

- *Bombina bombina*
- *Triturus cristatus*
- *Pelobates fuscus*
- *Rana arvalis*
- *Rana lessonae*
- Possibly *Bufo viridis* and *Bufo calamita*
- Other amphibians.

Peloates fuscus benefits from ponds,  
sandy habitats and cattle farms.



# Leucorrhinia pectoralis benefit from restored and new ponds







# Corridors of ponds and sandy habitats for other species?

Aquatic/terrestrial insects, reptiles:

*Dytiscus laticornis*.

*Graphoderus bilineatus*.

*Leucorrhinia pectoralis* / *albifrons*

*Aeshna viridis*

*Lacerta agilis*



II+IV



IV



IV



II+IV



IV

# Leucorrhinia pectoralis

## II + IV



Lund, Sweden

# Leucorrhinia albifrons IV



Øland, Sweden

# Aeshna viridis

## IV



Narew, Poland

# Graphoderus bilineatus II+IV



Osby, Sweden

# Vertigo geyeri



# angustior



# mouliinsiana



# The field excursion will show corridors with :

- Pond restoration and new ponds for *Emys orbicularis*, *Hyla arborea*, *triturus cristatus*.
- Creation of new terrestrial habitats and old nesting sites of *Emys orbicularis*.
- New ponds colonized by EU protected invertebrates.
- How cattlefarms can be established and maintain the habitats in the corridors.